

this State. The concurrent resolutions creating a regional council of governments, and any amendments thereto, will be referred to in this Part as the 'charter' of the regional council.

"§ 160A-471. *Membership*.—Each unit of local government initially adopting a concurrent resolution under G.S. 160A-470 shall become a member of the regional council. Thereafter, any local government may join the regional council by ratifying its charter and by being admitted by unanimous vote of the existing members. All of the rights and privileges of membership in a regional council of governments shall be exercised on behalf of its member governments by their delegates to the council.

"§ 160A-472. *Contents of charter*.—The charter of a regional council of governments shall:

- (1) specify the name of the council;
- (2) establish the powers, duties, and functions that it may exercise and perform;
- (3) establish the number of delegates to represent the member governments, fix their terms of office, provide methods for filling vacancies, and prescribe the compensation and allowances, if any, to be paid to delegates;
- (4) set out the method of determining the financial support that will be given to the council by each member government;
- (5) establish a method for amending the charter, and for dissolving the council and liquidating its assets and liabilities.

In addition, the charter may, but need not, contain rules and regulations for the conduct of council business and any other matters pertaining to the organization, powers, and functioning of the council that the member governments deem appropriate.

"§ 160A-473. *Organization of council*.—Upon its creation, a regional council shall meet at a time and place agreed upon by its member governments and shall organize by electing a chairman and any other officers that the charter may specify or the delegates may deem advisable. The council shall then adopt by-laws for the conduct of its business. All meetings of the council shall be open to the public.

"§ 160A-474. *Withdrawal from council*.—Any member government may withdraw from a regional council at the end of any fiscal year by giving at least 60 days' written notice to each of the other members. Withdrawal of a member government shall not dissolve the council if at least two members remain.

"§ 160A-475. *Specific powers of council*.—The Charter may confer on the regional council any of the following powers:

- (1) to apply for, accept, receive, and disburse funds, grants, and services made available to it by the State of North Carolina or any agency thereof, the United States of America or any agency thereof, any unit of local government (whether or not a member of the council), and any private or civic agency;
- (2) to employ personnel;
- (3) to contract with consultants;
- (4) to contract with the State of North Carolina, any other state, the United States of America, or any agency thereof, for services;
- (5) to study regional governmental problems, including matters affecting health, safety, welfare, education, recreation, economic conditions, regional planning, and regional development;
- (6) to promote cooperative arrangements and coordinated action among its member governments;